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## RIDDING AN OLD BUILDING OF BEDBUGS

(An inquiry on this subject from a *Journal* reader was referred to a superintendent of years of experience.—Ed.)

**D**EAR EDITOR: How did you know that I once took charge of an old building in which the social bedbug had a prior claim and that I spent about two years acquiring the information which I now pass on to you? Enclosed find a pamphlet which may be of help to your subscriber.<sup>1</sup> It is not only helpful, but interesting. As the painter mixes his colors with brains, so a little science mixed with bedbugs gives better results. Having no definite knowledge of your subscriber's situation I can only speak in a general way. For each ward or room one mode of procedure is as follows: Put all wooden frames whether of springs or bedsteads into the discard. The older the wood is, the more necessary that it should be eliminated. Also discard any mattresses of which the ticks are broken, worn or torn. Then take the bedsteads apart, stand them and all other furniture so that air has access on all sides. Then seal the ward and give it a 24-hour sulphur fumigation and repeat twice, making three fumigations in all, changing the position of the various articles between fumigations. This might be done to several rooms and wards in succession until the infested areas have been covered. Or the furniture might be moved into a smaller room or closet and then fumigated while the larger room was being cleaned and repainted, after all cracks had been stopped up. Some people pour alcohol or kerosene over the joints of steel bedsteads after they have been taken apart and set fire with a lighted match. Corrosive sublimate, 1-16, can be dropped from a medicine dropper into corners and hinges that will not come apart. Soap and water cleanliness and daily inspection as long as any life is found should follow. Our housekeeper maintains weekly inspection year round of all employees' beds and finds a slender hatpin is useful for going into cracks. It is an error to believe that dried scales often seen are dead bugs. These scales are usually cast-off covering by which method the bugs grow. So far as I know the little pests lead a charmed life and never die of natural causes.

New York

A SUPERINTENDENT.

<sup>1</sup> Farmer's Bulletin, No. 754—*The Bedbug*—discusses various methods of ridding infested buildings of this pest. It may be obtained from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

## JOURNALS ON HAND

**M**RS. F. A. STILGENBAUER, Bangor, Michigan, has the following copies which she will sell at any price offered: 1916, May through July, and September through December; 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921 complete; 1922, through April.

Myrtis Tarte, Climax, Georgia, wishes to dispose of the following: 1912, September through December; 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, complete; 1920, January.